

Website Posts – by Henry Sheppard after Evidence was published.

Meet Andrew Evans — AOG National Superintendent

from <http://www.oocities.org/hotsprings/3658/evans-1.html>

False Prophet ● His real name is *Wilfred Andrew Lever Evans*.

False Pastor

● He calls himself “Doctor”, although he has never completed any tertiary study.

● He controlled the Assemblies of God in Australia from 1977 to 1997.

False Apostle

● He was the only AOG National Executive member to receive a salary from the AOG National Office during that time.

False Teacher

● But he refuses to accept *any* responsibility for the scandals which have engulfed the Australian AOG in recent years. The Bible says that teachers of the Word should “incur a stricter judgment” (James 3:1), but Andrew Evans refuses to acknowledge any kind of responsibility for either his teachings, or for the outrageous actions of the National Executive that he has dominated for the last twenty years.

False Prophet

“Decade of Harvest”?

At the 1989 AOG National Conference, Andrew Evans prophesied that the church in Australia was about to enter a “**Decade of Harvest**”. During the nineties, the local AOG churches were going to be overrun with desperate people, all clamouring for a seat within an AOG church.

Allegedly, the pressures were going to be so great that God had warned Andrew Evans in advance, so that he could begin organising the massive facilities that would be required to meet the new demands.

Of course, the reverse has occurred. People are *leaving* AOG churches in Australia in droves. At least two thousand people have left Andrew Evans’ own church since 1989.

“REVIVAL”? On 14 February 1995, Andrew Evans stood up at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre and announced: “**This is it. This is REVIVAL!**”

He was referring to stage hypnotist Rodney Howard-Browne’s success in getting a small crowd of people to laugh (for no particular reason).

That prophetic announcement of “REVIVAL” by Andrew Evans, almost two years ago, has been followed by a sustained decline in attendances at most Australian AOG churches.

The only Australian AOG churches to maintain their numbers or grow since that time have been the ones who have steadfastly refused to have anything to do with the so-called “Toronto Blessing” peddled by Andrew Evans.

False Pastor

False promises

At the start of the AOG Insurance Agency Scandal (5 November 1993), Wilfred Andrew Lever Evans was the Senior Minister at Paradise AOG, Chairman of the AOG Insurance Agency Sub-Committee, State Superintendent of the AOG in South Australia and National Superintendant of the AOG in Australia.

Andrew Evans knew more than anyone else outside of the AOG Insurance Agency about what was going on there.

[**Despite that, from the time the troubles became public, Evans has never ceased to bleat about his hands being “tied”. Even when the rumours surfaced in December 1996 about his brother Freddy Evans being involved in adultery, Andrew simultaneously protested Freddy’s innocence and announced that he would *not* be part of the AOG National Executive investigating committee. “Don’t get any on you” is Andrew**

**More about
[Fred Evans](#)**

Evans' constant motto.]

On the day of the sacking Greg Sowerby rang Andrew Evans and asked about the wages which were due to his wife at that time. Andrew Evans *promised* that she would receive her money and two cheques were duly made out to Meredith.

A few days after the cheques were deposited, the bank “dishonoured” them. Andrew Evans had arranged for the cheques to be cancelled!

You needed to have been there to fully appreciate this event. A distressed young mother of two, having received firm assurances from her “pastor” of eighteen years, had the means to pay her housekeeping bills ripped from under her.

On discovering that the cheques had been dishonoured, Meredith immediately drove to Andrew Evans' home and confronted him. Andrew Evans promised Meredith to her face that she would receive the money, but no money ever came!

This was a cowardly attack on a distressed mother with two young children.

- By her “pastor” of eighteen years, no less!
 - By the National Superintendant of a pentecostal denomination!
- To this day I am astonished by the cowardice and cruelty of Andrew Evans.

**Threats
and abuse**

Andrew Evans followed his attack on Meredith Sowerby by ringing my wife—Raine Sheppard—and threatening and abusing her. He did it on a weekday afternoon, when he knew I would be at work.

Twice.

[I had the phone number changed to prevent him doing it a third time.]

Apparently Andrew Evans believes that God grants some special Christian grace to “ministers” who threaten and intimidate women.

**Defames own
sister!**

Having established a clear pattern of contempt for women, Andrew Evans then extended himself by defaming his own sister.

Evie Glasgow, youngest daughter of Tommy and Stella Evans—having discussed, explained and pleaded with Andrew Evans about the foolishness of knowingly violating scripture—placed her views in print (see: [Papers by Evelyn D. Glasgow](#)).

Andrew Evans objected to Evie's writings on the grounds that she had “used” her father's name. How pathetic! What gives Andrew the right to call himself “Evans”? His childhood fantasy that he is *Elijah returned* and that he has received some magic mantle from his father is just that— a dangerous fantasy.

Andrew Evans' response was to instruct one of his lackeys, Ron Hunt, to write a letter to AOG pastors across Australia “on behalf of the Evans family” [A.E. trying to avoid responsibility, as usual], in which he defamed Evie as being mentally unstable, low-life scum who approves of fornication.

The letter was read out to the Queensland State Conference in October 1996 and, according to some reports, was applauded by the AOG pastors present. (For their sake, I hope that is not true. *God is not mocked. Whatever a man sows, that shall he reap.* Anyone cheering the defamation of a defenceless widow can look forward to some interesting dealings with the Living God.)

Evie's response was typically gracious. Read her [Open Letter to the AOG National Executive](#) for yourself.

**Evans spends
church money
to pay a
lawyer
to have the
Bible banned!**

False Apostle

The KJV says of God that “thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name” (Psalm 138:2).

Andrew Evans and many of the current Australian AOG National Executive have a different formula—**they have exalted their name above the Word of God.**

Keith Ainge sent out an *Official Communique* on behalf of these men justifying Andrew Evans' actions in suing me for “defamation”.

In that document, Ainge made a series of absurd statements, to which I responded in a draft letter dated 17 August 1996. The letter was never sent, because Andrew Evans and his mates who sued me for “defamation” — joined, notice carefully, by Keith Ainge — obtained an injunction preventing me from “publishing or causing to be published the proposed letter”.

Of course, that injunction only applies in South Australia. If I were to publish the following passage in South Australia, Andrew Evans’ lawyer has already promised he will arrange to have me “breaking rocks”. Keith Ainge’s *Communique* makes the claim that their legal action is a “last resort”. He says that “there are simply no alternatives left”. Which is, of course, a load of baloney.

They could always try **the Jesus alternative:**

If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also (Luke 6:29).

They could try **the Paul alternative:**

If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head (Romans 12:20).

They could try **the Peter alternative:**

When they hurled their insults at Him (Christ), he did not retaliate; when He suffered, he entrusted himself to one who judges justly (1 Peter 2:23).

And they could try **the genuine spiritual leadership alternative:**

Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted (Galatians 6:1).

You be the judge. Should I be imprisoned indefinitely for quoting (while in South Australia) from these or any of the total of *twenty-eight separate verses of the Bible* used in the draft letter?

The ugly truth of the matter is that Andrew Evans, Keith Ainge, and the other fake “apostles” are spiritually bankrupt. When confronted with spiritual truth which exposes their ignorance of God’s Word, they retaliated by using church money to pay a lawyer to have the Bible banned.

Ainge’s claim that the legal action was a “last resort” and that “there are simply no alternatives left” was finally proven to be utterly false when Andrew Evans filed a [Notice of Discontinuance](#) on the action.

In plain English, Andrew Evans chickened out before the judge could award him a token \$1 compensation for his imaginary damages.

False Teacher

The following papers were written in response to Andrew Evans’ teachings.

Paper 1: In March 1995 Andrew Evans published a booklet called “A New Wave of the Holy Spirit”. It contained references to twenty passages of Scripture, none of which actually supports the thoughts or ideas that Andrew Evans claims for them in his booklet.

The Evans booklet had only been released a few days before it was challenged in print by [A New Wave of the Spirit?](#)

A furore broke out after the people in his church began to realise that Andrew Evans is a false teacher.

In a typical response, Evans denied all responsibility for his own booklet, saying that he had plagiarised (stolen) the content from another preacher — Rob Rufus of *New Covenant Ministries*—a man whom Andrew Evans had driven out of the Australian AOG and accused of being a “cult leader” to local Immigration officials!

Paper 2: On 7 May 1995, Andrew Evans preached an outrageous sermon which purported to teach on “Testing the Spirits”, but which really examined the subject of “Authority in the Church”. In it he made a cult-like demand that the people believe what Andrew Evans had to say, simply because *he* said they should believe what he had to say!

[Trust me, I’m a Doctor!](#) examines Andrew Evans’ ignorance of Scripture, his false claims regarding his personal authority, and his dishonest and manipulative response to the challenges made for him to support his teachings from the Bible.

Freddy Evans

Source: <http://www.oocities.org/hotsprings/3658/freddy-1.html>

Freddy Evans sent a message to me, via his brother Andrew Evans, who passed it to their sister Evie during a phone call regarding the execution of their late father's will.

[NOTE: Freddy has refused to speak to his sister for several years, because she has consistently chosen to obey God rather than Freddy and Andrew Evans.]

The substance of the request was that I participate in a further cover-up by removing the reference to the persistent reports of Freddy committing adultery with the piano player at Taigum Gardens AOG a few years ago.

The phone conversation related to the effects of a codicil added to Tommy Evans' will after he came under the care and control of Freddy Evans a couple of years ago. Evie — a poor widow — will lose her share totally, unless Freddy and Andrew agree to sign it over to her.

In the context of giving his nominal agreement to sign the necessary papers, Freddy tacked on the request that the reference to him committing adultery be removed from this web site. (Naturally, there were no strings attached...)

The following is the text of my reply:

15 August 1997

Freddy Evans
PO Box 7075
Toowoomba QLD 4352
AUSTRALIA

Dear Freddy,

I was astonished to receive your request on Thursday 7 August 1997 to remove one sentence from my "Recovering from Spiritual Abuse" web site.

Just for the record, the request came to me via Evie Glasgow (your younger widowed sister whom you refuse to speak or write to), via Andrew Evans (your older brother who apparently is arranging to rectify the changes introduced into your deceased father's will — changes designed to rob Evie of her inheritance through a codicil added after your elderly, blind father came under your direct care and control).

The substance of your request is that I remove a single sentence from the web site, a sentence that alludes to the detailed reports of you committing adultery with the church pianist while you were the pastor of the Taigum Gardens AOG in Queensland, reports which continue to circulate across Australia.

Those stories, regarding yourself and the woman, now estranged from her husband, have been discussed widely. You are remembered in Adelaide as a "ladies man", always very smooth and charming.

There is plenty of anecdotal, circumstantial evidence regarding your behaviour and the behaviour of your wife around the time in question. The majority view is that the rumours are probably true.

The (small) minority view is that, in the absence of a full confession from you, it never happened. The person who ably leads your defence is Evie, though I am sure your blind hatred will keep you from ever believing the fact.

Putting aside the speculation, the relevant facts appear to be these:

1) When Ashley Evans molested his fatherless teenage cousin — alternatively beating the girl with a cricket bat and then hugging her for his own sexual pleasure, as he later admitted to the victim's mother — you actively supported the abuser, rather than the victim.

2) When Ashley's father — Andrew Evans, National Superintendant of the AOG in Australia for twenty years — sent three men to the girl's home to order her mother to sacrifice the girl to demons, you actively supported him.

[That's right, Freddy, A SACRIFICE TO DEMONS. How was a fifteen year old girl going to support herself on the streets of Adelaide? Only by prostitution, as you and Andrew well knew. It seems that the plan was to force her into public immorality in order to be able to disparage any statements she might later make about having been molested by an Evans.]

3) When Evie Glasgow stated that the actions of Andrew Evans and others, in taking a fellow Christian to court, was contrary to Scripture, you arranged for her to be publicly defamed, falsely accused of approving of fornication, and ridiculed as mentally unstable. You arranged for a letter to be circulated nationally that defamed her.

You arranged for that letter to be read out at a State Conference, to the applause (!) of a group of "pastors" (may

God have mercy on them).

[NOTE: Her only “crime” was to publicly recommend that a group of ministers follow the clear teaching of Scripture. Evie is a widow; indeed, she is your youngest sister. Yet, in an act of merciless cruelty, you arranged for her to be humiliated nationally for daring to express a sincerely held opinion.]

4) When your blind, ninety-five year old father came into your care and control, you told him some story which so infuriated him that he effectively cut his youngest daughter out of his will. To his credit, the old man relented before his death, but due to his blindness was unable to ensure that the codicil he had added was properly removed. Now you hold a poor widow’s share of a very small estate in your hands.

[NOTE: Both you and Andrew Evans were penniless ministers 25 years ago. Today Andrew controls a million dollars worth of real estate and superannuation investments, and you own probably half a million dollars worth of real estate, plus impressive superannuation investments. Neither of you need any more money, but you’re quite happy to try to manipulate me by implying that you will withhold your sister’s share of her parents’ estate if I do not bend to your demand.]

5) When your brother made a practice of ringing my wife at home and threatening and abusing her, you supported the abuser rather than the victim.

So, what are you asking us to believe?

That a man who is comfortable with a wide variety of abuses against women is incapable of using his position as a minister to gather an extra moment of pleasure at the expense of a suggestible pianist?

That he would hesitate to use his influence and power to bend yet another woman to his will, even at the price of the poor woman’s marriage? (Her ex-husband has no hesitation in stating that you were the cause of the collapse of their relationship.)

But the strongest proof against you Freddy is the fact that the AOG National Executive and the QLD State Executive have refused to conduct an investigation in order to clear your name.

Those men were very quick to pay a lawyer to make accusations against Greg Sowerby to the police, accusations that a rigorous twelve month police investigation proved to be completely unfounded.

But in your case — where both you and Andrew loudly proclaim your innocence — they are afraid to ask the question in any kind of public way. Why not? Joh Bjelke-Petersen’s advice — *Never hold an inquiry unless you know what the outcome is going to be* — seems to fit this situation. They do know what the outcome would be, and therefore refuse to start the process.

I can’t say what was the exact extent of your physical relationship with that poor woman, Freddy, but I do know that you are a cruel and cowardly sleazebag. Women mean nothing to you. You have treated your own sister and niece as disposable rags.

I also know that the sentence on the web page tells the truth. So I think it should stay where it is, pending some meaningful change in circumstances.

Yours faithfully

Henry

<http://www.oocities.org/hotsprings/3658/evie-1.html>

Papers by Evelyn D. Glasgow

The Writer: Evie Glasgow is the youngest daughter of Tommy and Stella Evans, prominent pastors and missionaries of the Assemblies of God in 1943, and assisted her parents in their work in New Guinea and in Australia. She studied at Commonwealth Bible College at AOG all her life, until recent events caused her to withdraw to an independent pentecostal church.

Paper 1: An [Open Letter to the Churches](#).

This pamphlet was written after Andrew Evans and other members of the AOG National Executive violated *1 Corinthians 6*. It would return to the ancient paths of Biblical practice, rather than apply worldly methods to destroy fellow Christians who da amongst high ranking church leaders.

Paper 2: An [Open Letter to the AOG National Executive](#).

This pamphlet is a response to the slanderous attack on her by Andrew Evans, Fred Evans and Ron Hunt—AOG “pastors”. They could not refute the arguments from Scripture and history contained in her *Open Letter to The Churches*, so they launched a cowardly attack on her character, implying that she is emotionally unstable and morally suspect.

An Open Letter to the Churches

On the occasion of the violation of *1 Corinthians 6* by

**Wilfred Andrew Evans, Philip Henry Hills, David Frederick Cartledge, Brian Charles Houston,
John Charles Lewis, John Warwick and Alun Wynford Davies.**

1 Corinthians 6:1 (KJV)

Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

1 Corinthians 6:7-8 (Living Bible)

To have such lawsuits at all is a real defeat for you as Christians. Why not just accept mistreatment and leave it at that? It would be far more honouring to the Lord to let yourself be cheated. But, instead, you yourselves are the ones who do wrong, cheating others, even your own brothers.

These well known Scriptures have, no doubt, been quoted many times to numerous people by AOG pastors across our land.

Today I wish to quote these very same verses to the seven National Executive pastors of the Assemblies of God churches in Australia who are going to law against a brother in Christ, their only complaint being “defamation”.

A scandal and a disgrace

It is outrageous that seven men on the AOG National Executive are taking a brother to court. They are doing this of their own volition, after hardly any consultation with the AOG Fellowships at large; and without calling for a vote on the issue among the AOG pastors of Australia.

If a vote were to be taken, I don't believe those seven members of the National Executive would be given the go ahead to take Henry Sheppard (a brother in Christ) to court.

Who is taking this action?

Lately some AOG National Executive members have been heard to say to their respective congregations that they are not taking a brother in Christ to court, but the Assemblies of God in Australia are. How deceptive! Does that mean that you and I are responsible before God for this court action?

Now I ask myself, Who is actually taking Henry Sheppard to court, and who will be paying for the court costs? Will it be those seven men on the National Executive or the Assemblies of God who pay?

When I went into the District Court for the first hearing, it wasn't the AOG's name that I saw on the noticeboard informing people of the court action. The litigation was taken out by Wilfred Andrew Evans, Philip Henry Hills, David Frederick Cartledge, Brian Charles Houston, John Charles Lewis, John Warwick and Alun Wynford Davies.

These are the men who should pay the legal expenses. But, no doubt, they will expect the Fellowship to pay for all those lawyers' fees.

Spiritual 'tit-for-tat'

One of the methods that those seven men use to extricate themselves from responsibility is to claim that Henry took legal action against them and they are just doing the same.

I'd hardly call the summons Henry took out for money owed to him by the A.O.G. any comparison to taking a brother to court and suing him for thousands of dollars for “defamation”.

For these seven men to say, in effect, that *Henry took out a summons, so now we can take him to court*, is like when Adam said to God that the woman gave him the forbidden fruit so he ate it. It's just an excuse.

An example to the flock?

Moreover, unlike Henry, these men are Executive members—so called “pastors”. They are meant to be our examples and we are supposed to be able to follow their example. These are the ones God holds responsible to defend the truth in His church. Their action in taking a brother to court is like snubbing their noses at Scripture. *Rather suffer to be defrauded*, the Bible says. These men seem more intent on protecting their reputations than upholding the Word of God.

If it was a criminal matter, such as robbery, murder, assault, etc., needing to be dealt with in the criminal courts, I might agree, as Romans 13:1-6 encourages us to respect authorities and magistrates, thus validating their office and existence. Unfortunately these seven men are taking a brother to the civil courts, contrary to 1 Corinthians 6:1-8, which teaches that Christians need to be

able to settle matters between themselves and not sue one another over petty issues (like “defamation”) and, if necessary, to even be prepared to suffer being defrauded.

Attacking the church?

For these seven men to say that Henry is *attacking the church* and must be stopped is simply not true.

Henry has been exposing much of the rot that is evident among the Executive and it is very sad to see that the Fellowship at large are either ignoring the real issues or are deceived.

What does God think of it all?

Henry Sheppard has written a book where he addresses the unfair treatment dished out by the AOG National Executive to another brother in Christ, Greg Sowerby.

The book, *The Evidence*, reveals documented evidence and police reports completely exonerating Greg Sowerby and exposes the National Executive’s disgraceful treatment of him.

There are only a few parts in the book that could be called defamatory, and Henry Sheppard has long ago withdrawn them. Yet these seven men are going to bankrupt this man and cause him to lose his home. What does God think of it all?

A can of worms...

This action of taking a brother in Christ to the civil courts (which has never happened before in the history of the Assemblies of God in Australia) may well open up a can of worms. You can be sure that other court actions will follow, maybe some served on pastors, if this issue is not checked.

These Executive members are setting in motion a precedent that is bound to generate alarming consequences for the AOG church in Australia.

I find it disturbing to see the audacity of these men who continue to stand up in their pulpits and preach, without even considering to step down for a short time, at least, while the litigation is in progress. Their large congregations are blissfully ignorant of what is going on. Pastors in smaller churches would not be allowed to get away with this sort of conduct.

I pray for these seven men that God will soften their hearts and bring them back to the truth that sets us free.

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Evie’s response ,

Last update: 28 May 1997

<http://www.oocities.com/HotSprings/3658/evie-x2.html>

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An Open Letter to the AOG National Executive

Following a defamatory attack on the writer by three prominent
Assemblies of God “ministers” and “brothers-in-Christ”.

The AOG hierarchy’s response to my Open Letter to the Churches is cheap, inaccurate and slanderous—a “quick-fix” counter blast designed to blacken my name and remove the focus of the debate from the biblical questions that have been raised.

If I were to follow the AOG National Executive’s example, I could take Andrew Evans, Freddie Evans and Ron Hunt—my “brothers-in-Christ” —to court over the written and oral statements made concerning me at the Queensland AOG State Conference in early October 1996.

Cowardice

In a cowardly attempt to justify their actions and to bolster their credibility (their fame), members of the AOG National Executive have—true to form— attacked the messenger, rather than deal honestly with the message.

These men have found it easy to strike at the vulnerable, the defenceless widow and the fatherless. They have demeaned themselves by resorting to a personal attack on one who raised genuine questions and issues according to Scripture.

And they have attacked me while hiding behind the nobility of my dear, blind, ninety-five year old father.

Muckraking

Time and time again, the AOG National Executive has been approached by people, in accordance with the principle of Matthew 18, but the AOG National Executive has steadfastly refused to listen to them.

- We have taken witnesses.
- We have presented the evidence.
- We have challenged them from Scripture.

And how have we been answered?

We have been answered by scurrilous, undignified, unprofessional muckraking. (Which, had it at least been accurate, might not have been so bad.) But the impression they have sought to give, that I am unstable and approving of fornication, is false and defamatory.

Defamation

The irony of this situation would be laughable, if it were not so serious.

I went to the church (according to Matthew 18) regarding the actions of some of the AOG National Executive members in taking a Christian brother to court (over a trifling case of “defamation”).

They have responded by defaming me!

In a further irony, the court action for “defamation” was a result of the AOG National Executive’s failure to deal honourably with the issues raised in the book *The Evidence*.

What price ‘reputation’?

We read in Philippians 2 that Jesus Christ emptied Himself and made Himself of no reputation. He was betrayed and defamed.

By his example, Jesus showed us that “credibility” and “reputation” are this world’s prize and glory. They should not be sought after by His disciples in courtroom battles!

Didn’t Jesus teach us, in His Model Prayer, to pray: *Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us?*

That is why all true Christians need to walk in daily repentance and brokenness: an attitude that flies in the face of any pursuit of “credibility” or “reputation”.

We have absolutely no credit with God. The Bible teaches that our righteousness is “as filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6). We are only secure because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross.

Our concern should be to please God (not men) and to regard Jesus' opinion of us as the most valuable treasure.

Evil institutionalised

I am greatly disturbed by this development of taking a brother in Christ to court, simply to protect the reputation and ego of temporarily elected church officials.

If this behaviour is not checked, the evil will become institutionalised. It will have the effect of gagging the sheep—those whom the Scriptures exhort to both judge the message taught by the shepherds and to expose anything wrong in their teaching or practice.

And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them (Ephesians 5:11, NASB).

We are...no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming... (Ephesians 4:14, NASB).

But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good
(1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Contrary to 1 Corinthians 6:1-8, certain members of the AOG National Executive are introducing a new methodology into the church which will affect us all. They are trying to silence Henry Sheppard by taking him to the civil courts because he exposed wrongs. If they can do that to Henry Sheppard (using church funds), they can do it to the rest of us.

It is never easy for Christians to defend the truth in the church. But a work for the Lord or a ministry that does not demand a price from us is worth nothing. The cost always involves suffering.

Wasn't it so with Jesus? He began His ministry "in favour with God and man" (Luke 2:52). But as soon as He identified Himself as Truth and began to serve in His capacity as The Truth, the attitude of the people began to change and He ceased to be in favour (Luke 4:29).

Pilate, echoing the philosophers down the ages, wanted to know "What is Truth?" (John 18:38). He rejected the One who is the very embodiment of truth, because of the cost involved—not considering the ultimate price he would pay in losing his own soul.

There is certainly a fearful ultimate cost in knowingly compromising the Word of God. That is why it is imperative for true Christians to stand up and be counted for the truth that sets us free.

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing (Edmund Burke).

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<http://www.oocities.com/HotSprings/3658/evie-x3.html>

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Notice of Discontinuance

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
IN THE DISTRICT COURT

No. 173 of 1996

BETWEEN:

WILFRED ANDREW EVANS, PHILIP HENRY HILLS, DAVID FREDERICK CARTLEDGE, BRIAN CHARLES HOUSTON, JOHN CHARLES LEWIS, JOHN WARWICK, ALUN WYNFORD DAVIES

Plaintiffs

- and -

HENRY SHEPPARD

First Defendant

- and -

AITCH GEE PUBLICATIONS

Second Defendant

NOTICE OF DISCONTINUANCE

TAKE NOTICE that the Plaintiffs hereby wholly discontinue the within action against the Defendants.

PHILLIPS FOX

Settled by:

Grant Mitchell

Dated: 18/11/96

19-29 Young Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000
DX511

Solicitors for the plaintiffs.

THIS NOTICE OF DISCONTINUANCE was taken out by PHILLIPS FOX solicitors for the plaintiffs, whose address for service is 19-29 Young Street, Adelaide DX511. Telephone: 8210 5907 Facsimile: 8231 0014

← → C www.oocities.org/hotsprings/3658/defamed.html

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Plaintiffs

- and -

HENRY SHEPPARD

First Defendant

- and -

AITCH GEE PUBLICATIONS

Second Defendant

NOTICE OF DISCONTINUANCE

TAKE NOTICE that the Plaintiffs hereby wholly discontinue the within action against the Defendants.

PHILLIPS FOX

Settled by:
Grant Mitchell
Dated: 18/11/96

19-29 Young Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000
DX511

Solicitors for the plaintiffs.

THIS NOTICE OF DISCONTINUANCE was taken out by PHILLIPS FOX solicitors for the plaintiffs, whose address for service is 19-29 Young Street, Adelaide DX511. Telephone: 8210 5907 Facsimile: 8231 0014

A Fresh Wave

Andrew Evans

Dr Andrew Evans is the General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Australia and Senior Pastor of the Assemblies of God Church in Paradise, Adelaide.

A fresh wave of the Holy Spirit

is transforming the lives of

people and churches

Right across our nation, many of our churches are enjoying a fresh touch which is renewing their love for Jesus and his Word and inspiring the congregation to glorify and magnify him and reach out to others. This is a sign that what is happening *is* a move of God.

The New Wave

Over the last 12 months or so, thousands of churches have reported a fresh wave of the Holy Spirit which is transforming the lives of their people and churches. This, in particular, seems to be occurring in England where, we are told, there are around 5,000 churches of all Protestant denominations being mightily touched.

What has marked this new wave has been the unusual manifestations, such as falling, shaking, 'drunkenness' in the Spirit, weeping and laughter. Perhaps the latter has caused the most concern among traditional Pentecostals.

Many are saying, and rightly so, 'Are these manifestations biblical?' Without presenting an exhaustive study, I suggest the following Scriptures for you to meditate on.

Falling

- * Saul fell when meeting the risen Christ (Acts 9:4).
- * John fell at his feet as though dead (Revelation 1:17). Ezekiel had a similar experience (Ezekiel 1:28), and so did Daniel (Daniel 8:17-18, 10:9).
- * A whole company were once overcome by Jesus and fell back (John 18:6).
- * The disciples evidently needed Jesus to 'touch them' after they fell down on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:6-7).

Shaking and 'Drunkenness'

- * When the Holy Spirit came on a praying company, the whole building began to move (Acts 4:31 cf 2:2; 16:26).
- * The Old Testament speaks of trembling in God's presence (Dan. 10:7; Ps. 99;1 Jer. 5:22).
- * The prophets experienced such shaking (Hab. 3:16; Jer 23:9).
- * Jeremiah, in the presence of the Lord and overwhelmed by his holy words, expresses that he is like a drunken man, overcome by wine (Jer. 23:9).
- * Paul exhorts ex-drunkards to drink instead of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18).
- * When the Holy Spirit fell in an incredible way on the Day of Pentecost, observers initially thought 120 disciples were drunk. Peter pointed out that it was a work of the Spirit and the church was born with 3,000 souls saved (Acts 2:13-18, 40-41).

Weeping

- * In the Old Testament, the people wept at God's Word (Neh. 8:9)
- * In the New Testament, listeners to Peter at Pentecost were 'cut to the heart' (Acts 2:37) - an emotional response.
- * Weeping is a needful, natural and a normal response to the movement of the Spirit.

Laughing

- * In the Old Testament, the freed captives' mouths were filled with laughter (Ps.1 26:1, see also Ecc. 3:4).
- * Jesus promised the disciples he would make their joy full (Jn. 17:13).
- * The word 'rejoice' used by Jesus in Luke 10:20-21 of both the disciples and himself literally means 'to leap for joy'. You can't do that soberly!

History

As you read the history of revival, you will discover that all of the above manifestations have occurred in the past. I would like to highlight a few excerpts from a revival in Tennessee in 1886 where God moved mightily and the record of that revival was placed in the archives in Washington by an act of Congress:

'The laughing exercise was frequent, confined solely to the religious. It was a loud hearty laughter, but it excited solemnity in saints and sinners.'

Dr Martin Lloyd Jones, a famous British preacher, in his book on revival, confirmed from his study of revival movements that this kind of manifestation occurred, although he himself would take a rather conservative view in his approach to the moving of the Holy Spirit:

'...always in a revival, there is what somebody once called a divine disorder. Some are groaning and agonising under conviction, others praising God for the great salvation. And all this leads to crowded and prolonged meetings. Time seems to be forgotten. People seem to have entered into

eternity. A meeting may start at 6.30 in the evening, and it may not end until daybreak the next morning with nobody aware of the passing of the hours.'

Rodney Howard-Browne

One of the prominent personalities in this revival move is the 33 year old South African, Rodney Howard-Browne. There has been much misinformation circularised about this young man, so I submit the following from my own research, having talked to Assemblies of God leaders in the United States, including AOG pastors on his Advisory Board and other prominent charismatic and Pentecostal leaders.

Rodney Howard-Browne was brought up in a traditional Pentecostal home. He was saved at the age of five and baptised in the Holy Spirit at the age of eight. His uncle was for some years the moderator of a movement in South Africa which originated from the ministry of John G. Lake and was an offshoot from the Apostolic Faith Mission, the largest Pentecostal movement in that country, with 600,000 members and adherents.

At the age of 18, at a non-Pentecostal camp, he cried out to God in desperation that he would use him. He had an unusual visitation where he felt the power of God and, for the next four days, was immersed in that fire, alternatively crying and laughing as he enjoyed a touch from God.

He then began ministry as both an evangelist and a pioneer pastor, in South Africa, but never saw any particularly powerful results, but laboured faithfully to follow through the call that Christ had placed on his life.

For two years, he was associated with Ray McCauley in his great church of 15,000 in Johannesburg. Part of Rodney's role was to teach in the Bible school.

In 1987, he felt a call to the United States and was sponsored, through immigration, to that country by an AOG pastor in Florida, called Bob Rogers. I spoke to Bob regarding Rodney and he told me of his early endeavours in USA as an evangelist.

For a couple of years, there was not a great deal of fruit for his labour, but approximately five years ago, while holding a crusade in a church of 200, he experienced an unusual move of the Spirit where people fell off their seats, some began crying and others were laughing. He was rather taken aback by this, but felt that it was of the Holy Spirit, and thus allowed it to continue.

The fruit of that move was that the church grew, lives were changed and people experienced a fresh touch which gave them a new love for the Lord Jesus. From that time on, his meetings have grown and his name has become known around the world as being synonymous with this new wave and, perhaps, reached its peak when he ministered in an AOG church, pastored by Karl Strader, where last year he held a nine week revival resulting in 6,000 people being baptised in water.

On another occasion, he ministered to 4,000 students in the Oral Roberts University, where the majority of them were slain in the Spirit. Many went outside and then, after prayer, literally hundreds were laying on the grass prostrate under the power of God.

I felt led to invite Rodney to Adelaide, after a great deal of prayer and research into his ministry, and we had a very successful crusade with him. Over 8,500 people, many from interstate, attended the meetings. We were forced to move out of our church and into the Adelaide Entertainment Centre.

There were over 500 decisions and reconsecration. Pastors from all over Australia were touched with the fire of God and our own church has been wonderfully revolutionised.

How to Handle the New Wave

Some of these manifestations have been in other churches of other fellowships and have resulted in decline, rather than growth. Some good people have left other churches feeling that there has been too much wildfire, without any order or control.

Due to our desire to channel this move and not lose by it, I questioned a number of people who were doing that successfully. Here are some responses.

1. Mike Rose

Mike is an AOG pastor in the largest city in Alaska, who had Rodney Howard-Browne minister in his church four years ago. At that time, they had a congregation of 200, but over the last 4 years, they have seen it grow to 600 in a community of 35,000.

The format that Mike uses is one which gives a balanced approach to church life, allowing for worship and the Word, ministry to the unsaved as well as impartation of the Holy Spirit.

To do this, he has followed a fairly traditional Sunday morning worship service with worship, communion and preaching of the Word, as well as all the other activities which occur in our morning services, such as dedications and so on.

If there are two or three people who are perhaps crying or laughing uncontrollably, the ushers will gently lead them into the prayer room where they can continue to enjoy the presence of Jesus without affecting those around them.

However, he is also open to the possible occasions when the Holy Spirit will just sweep over the service and the majority of the people will be either laughing, crying or worshipping at one time.

His Sunday evening service generally lasts for three to four hours, compared to the morning one of around two hours. At the conclusion of the evening evangelistic endeavour, people are invited to open up their hearts and hunger for a fresh touch of the Spirit. It was during these times that the powerful manifestations will take place and, having observed what has been happening in our Adelaide meetings over the last few weeks, these times have a great similarity to the old time Pentecostal camp meeting or tarrying services where people received a fresh touch of God.

Mike encourages his people to hunger and has taught them along that line. He helped them to understand and develop a new sensitivity to the ways of the Holy Spirit. His observations were:

- * You cannot sustain a move of the Spirit without hunger.
- * Corrections need to be made from time to time.
- * Don't just get fascinated by the move of God, but rather keep your eyes on Jesus.
- * Mission giving and outreach evangelism should be a prominent part of this move and the churches which don't reach out soon dry up.

He encourages us not to hype it up and that there needs to be a continual emphasis on holiness and that only qualified people should lay hands on those who have come for prayer.

Mike is also an adviser on Rodney Howard-Browne's Revival Ministries committee, along with three or four other AOG pastors in the USA. He informed me that he had sat in over 110 of Rodney's meetings and been impressed by the lack of pressure and hype, but by the powerful anointing of the Spirit which accompanies this young man.

2. John Lewis and Others

Our brother, John, who has been experiencing this move for some months now, has followed a similar format as Mike, and I have similar testimonies from Geoff Holdway (Brisbane), Brian Houston (Sydney) and Steve Penny (Melbourne).

The result has been that their churches have experienced the blessing without experiencing fallout from extremes. May the Lord help us to be wise master builders.

Helpful Advice

The following are a few tips from leaders around the world which may help you:

1. Do not seek to develop a ministry of manifestations out of what is a move of the Holy Spirit.
2. Create an atmosphere of faith, by giving opportunity for the Spirit to move. Rule out any manifestations of the flesh.
3. Be careful to maintain the focus on God himself and don't transfer people's faith to a man, place or a method.
4. Continue in both the Word and the Spirit and don't be caught in the trap of alternating between the two.
5. The best setting for people to receive from God is for them to come before him in the way the Scripture entreats us: 'Enter in his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise.' Testimonies can also prove an encouragement to others to respond to the Lord.
6. Remind people that Jesus invites us to come and drink, promising not only to quench our thirst, but also to release rivers of living water to flow out from us to others.
7. When people fall over, be open to keep praying for them. Encourage them to stay down and continue to receive from God. It is not unusual for people to stay down for several hours.
8. Have capable people available to catch those falling over. This removes the fear of falling and also avoids unnecessary collisions.
9. There is no need to cause people to fall to the floor by forcing them. The Holy Spirit is perfectly able to overwhelm people without your effort.
10. Allow God time to work with people. If some are not ready to respond, simply encourage them to remain open and in prayer to God. Return again to them when you have prayed for others.

11. Instruct the people while God is moving. Explain any unusual manifestations and try to settle unnecessary fears by giving understanding about what God is doing.
12. Deal with any carnal behaviour and do not allow it to hijack what God is doing. Take advantage of the opportunity that this can present to instruct people more fully on how to respond to God.
13. *Be open yourself, as it should be a time of refreshing for you too.*

Don't Miss This Hour of Visitation!

One of the saddest verses in the Bible records Jesus weeping over Jerusalem and saying, 'You did not know the hour of your visitation.' This failure to discern the seasons of God, resulted in the sombre declaration of Jesus' words, where he said, 'Your house will be left desolate.'

My cry to God is, 'Help me not to miss what you are doing. Give me wisdom to lead my church into the blessing. Help me, Lord, not to force it or make it happen and may I not just seek some formula, but out of a relationship with Jesus, guide my assembly into the fulness of the Spirit.'

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Renewal Journal #7 (1996:1), Brisbane, Australia, pp. 37-42.

<http://www.pastornet.net.au/renewal/>

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Is “The Evidence” still available?

What is *The Evidence* all about? A book called *The Evidence* was published on 28 December 1995 in South Australia by Henry Sheppard. The book tells the story of the [AOG Insurance Agency Scandal](#):

—the sackings, the withholding of wages due, the seizing of Greg Sowerby’s Independent Churches Insurance Program, the threats, intimidation, the false accusations by the AOG National Executive to the South Australian police, the police raid on the Sowerby’s home, the seizing of a filing cabinet full of papers, the repeated police interrogations over a twelve month period (the police finally deciding that there were [no charges to answer](#) and returning the documents), the constant slander by AOG Executive members, the attempted theft of Greg’s *Fuelcard* business and then the systematic white-anting of that business, and so on.

The Evidence is over 100 pages long and tells about years of torment—it contains a definitive description of the spiritual abuse of two families on a sustained basis.

The book consists of numerous documents—most of them written by various AOG National Executive leaders and staff, as well as copies of the relevant police reports (obtained under the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act*), documents that [Andrew Evans](#) and his fellow AOG National Executive leaders became increasingly desperate to cover up.

“Aggravated and Exemplary damages”? On 9 February 1996, Andrew Evans and six of the other AOG National Executive members commenced legal action against Henry Sheppard in the South Australian District Court seeking “Aggravated and Exemplary damages” on account of *The Evidence*.

After an initial attempt to defend the action on my own—and I am *not* a lawyer—I was forced to acknowledge that I lacked the technical expertise required and I simply quit the fight.

A series of uncontested court hearings followed. Then, on 18 November 1996, just when the date for the final declaration of the outcome was to be set by the judge, Andrew Evans and his mates chickened out. They “discontinued” their action.

Having thrown the best part of \$100,000 of the people’s money down the toilet, the prospect of being awarded \$1 each by the judge (on a minor legal technicality), and becoming a national laughing-stock into the bargain, was more than these heroic, professional, religious leaders could face.

“Banned”—in South Australia The other aspect to Andrew Evans’ legal action was the demand that *The Evidence* be banned as “defamatory”.

On 28 August 1996, on the basis that I had “failed to file and serve an amended defence”, the judge ruled that: “the defendants [my business name *Aitch Gee Publications* was also named as a defendant] be permanently restrained...from publishing or distributing further copies of the matter complained of namely the book entitled *The Evidence*”.

The injunction concluded with a cheery note telling me that:

“If you the within named HENRY SHEPPARD do not comply with this order you will be liable to be imprisoned or otherwise dealt with for contempt of Court.”

So what? What does that mean?

It simply means that I, Henry Sheppard, am banned from publishing the book *The Evidence* within South Australia.

I am free to publish it in any other state, territory or country, and **you** are perfectly free to do with your copy of the book whatever you see fit.

I have renounced my copyright and released *The Evidence* into the public domain for the sake of research into the history of the Australian AOG.

In the meantime, there are numerous copies held by public libraries around Australia, as well as an unknown number of privately held copies that have been made available for lending to interested parties.

Copies are held by at least three television broadcasters and two print journalists. And a copy is held by lawyers representing *National Mutual*, the multinational insurance and superannuation company that is currently being sued by several members of the AOG National Executive. *National Mutual* has indicated that it intends to call the book as evidence during the forthcoming court case—an event that I anticipate with keen interest.

The future? **What's the future for *The Evidence*?**

In many ways the book is now out-of-date. It is probably true that more interesting events have occurred since the book was published than did beforehand.

At one stage I was planning to write a book called *900 Days*—there were exactly nine hundred days between my sacking from the AOG Insurance Agency and my first court appearance—but even that concept has been dated by the rapid march of events.

When I published *The Evidence*, I knew almost nothing about either publishing or the law relating to defamation. It's been a steep learning curve, but I am a little better prepared for the next stages.

In February 1997, I will be publishing [*Paradise by the Numbers*](#), a book which reveals how Andrew Evans disposes of some \$3,000,000 p.a. income at the local church he controls (with the assistance of his two sons). This will be a professionally printed and presented book and it will be distributed in a more skillful manner than was *The Evidence*.

A new video As soon as the *Paradise by the Numbers* project is under control, I will begin work on drafting the script of a video which will tell the up-to-the-minute story of **The AOG Insurance Agency Scandal**.

The average Australian cannot be bothered reading a book, but will happily watch a video. And the medium of video is well suited to presenting documents (with the most significant sentences highlighted) in a meaningful way.

I am fortunate to have the [free-of-charge] services of a freelance television producer who, in return for his filming and editing work, will receive the rights to broadcast any or all of that tape on television.

I hope to have the video ready by May 1997, and will update this page with the relevant details when the video becomes available.

Postal Address: [Henry G. Sheppard, PO Box 101, Kaniva, VIC 3419, AUSTRALIA](#)

Last update: 21 December 1996
<http://www.geocities.com/HotSprings/3658/evidence.html>
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Trust Me, I'm a Doctor!

This page contains a transcript of a sermon preached by Dr. Andrew Evans at Paradise AOG on Sunday 7 May 1995, along with my comments and observations.

[Copies of the tape were available from the Paradise AOG Tape Library at the time of publication, but I cannot guarantee their continued availability.]

Please note: Spoken messages tend to contain grammatical errors, which would ordinarily be corrected before publication. I have refrained from making such corrections for fear of being accused of tampering with his words. Dr. Evans' sermon is to be judged by his use of Scripture, not by his use of grammar.

That's a tragedy! After recounting details of his most recent overseas trip, Dr. Evans introduced his sermon.

And it's weird and I don't understand it and I'm going to talk about it in a minute because some people say "Whoa, I don't know, that sounds like the devil." It's either the devil, God or the flesh. So I'm going to show you, just as I get into the message, how to discern. It's important because, if you think it's the devil and it's God and you miss out, that's a tragedy.

If you think it's the devil and it's God...

What if you think it's God, but it's really the devil?

That would be an even greater tragedy, one with potentially eternal consequences. A true pastor would express concern for the safety of his flock before he expressed concern that someone might miss out on the latest fad experience.

If a professor likes it, it must be OK! Then Dr. Evans played a video from a church in England before continuing...

OK, that's Sunderland, now I, I spoke there two Sundays ago and I was sitting down the front and the, the brother who was leading the meeting was a professor of mathematics in the university. So he's not the sort of, you know, emotional, flakey type of person.

Not the emotional, flakey type of person?

Here we have Dr. Evans' first appeal to authority. If a professor likes it, it must be okay. Dr. Timothy Leary was a professor and he made up a bath-tub full of LSD and tried to tip it into the Los Angeles water supply.

What does that tell us about "typical" professors? Some of the flakiest people I have ever had the privilege of knowing, I met at university.

Neither a professorship nor a doctorate can guarantee that a person has sound discernment in spiritual matters.

The power's so great? Um, in fact, he went to Toronto and he took a notebook and pen and he's watching everything and writing it down. Typical professor.

And he got nothing in the meetings and then later on in the restaurant, the power of God hit him in the restaurant and he fell off his seat in the restaurant and he began, I mean it's just weird, this stuff, I tell you! You can't work it out.

And he got this powerful touch. So, he's up leading the meeting and this is how it goes, he said, "Well, folks, you know, we're going to sing, WOOH! WOOH! WOOH!" he says, "WOOH!" I mean that's as real as it was. He says, "Andrew, I don't know. Are you going to stand up here? The power's so great. WOOH!"

The power's so great?

What "power" is this? Jesus said, *But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears... He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you* (John 16:13-14).

Are we to believe that the Holy Spirit took the "WOOH! WOOH! WOOH!" from Jesus and passed it on to our non-flakey professor? Or, is he saying that the professor is okay, but the Holy Spirit's not all there? Or was that really a Jesus-glorifying "WOOH! WOOH! WOOH!"?

Isn't it strange that the WOOH!-WOOH!-WOOH! Spirit never causes anyone to say: *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Repent and be baptised"* or words to that effect?

Anything involving a big crowd must be OK!

I tell you what, that made hairs stand on the back of my neck. Heh, heh. It's weird. I stood up, heh, heh, felt nothing! Hah. Well, not, not like that, I did feel an anointing and I felt a flow of the spirit and all that, but I never felt any of this other stuff. I began to think, What's wrong with me? Heh, heh, heh.

I go there to the British conference and the General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God stands up to welcome all the delegates. And he's welcoming all the delegates and next minute he starts shaking like this, shaking, and then he falls flat on the deck and he stays there for the rest of the meeting.

This is the British conference! The staid British conference. Then, to my amazement, they got so excited they had all these kind of flags all the place and they grabbed all these flags and rushed out the front and they're waving these flags and praising God.

Oh, God! Heh, heh. It is strange. Strange phenomenas, I don't understand it all. I can't grasp it all, but, uh, as we get into the message, uh, the fruit is what you look at.

I took with me a South Australian pastor and he went to Toronto. I didn't go to Toronto because things, program had been changed, and twice I've tried to go to Toronto and twice it hasn't happened and I've come to the feeling, belief that God doesn't want me to go. For some reason or other, 'cause people think, you know, oh it's this or that or whatever.

But, uh, he went to Toronto and he said that the Vineyard church in the Toronto has, is now the largest tourist attraction in Canada. They're coming in plane loads. They've got a new facility that seats four thousand. And he said, they're coming in plane loads; all the hotels around are booked solid, and this pastor friend from Adelaide went to those meetings and, he said, they had them day and night, six days a week, Monday off, but all the rest of the time, day and night, morning and night, he says, the morning meetings there'd at least be fifteen hundred people standing at the altar. Now that church a year ago was two hundred.

The largest tourist attraction in Canada?

Here we have Dr. Evans' second appeal to authority. If they get a big crowd, it must be okay.

How absurd! The *Adelaide Crows* attract 40,000 people to every home game they play. The *Rolling Stones* have no trouble gathering 50,000 at a time for a concert (at \$90 a head). Crowds of over 100,000 gather every time the Pope appears at his front window.

They're coming in plane loads!

That applies to Moslems at Mecca and Catholics at Lourdes and soccer fans at Wembley Stadium. When did a crowd become the evidence of God's approval?

Now that church a year ago was two hundred.

And eighteen months further on (1996), Andrew Evans was forced to admit—following a visit to Toronto—that the attendance had since shrunk to only fifty people! What do numbers prove?

If an Adelaide pastor does it, it must be OK! And they line up for hours to come to the meetings and he sat there and went forward for prayer a fair bit, never got touched, never felt anything. In fact he, at one stage, acted as a catcher for them. Never felt anything. And he got right to the end of the week and, uh, most of the people had gone, there may be twenty, thirty people left, and he's just sitting there and a brother came and said, "Would you like prayer?" And he'd been prayed for numbers of times, and he said, "Yes, I would."

And so he's prayed for and he says suddenly the power of God hit him, he pitched forward on his face, and he was on his face for about an hour, crying. And he says, during that period, even though theologically he taught about God and the Fatherhood of God, he said in that hour on his face before God crying, he got a new insight to the Fatherhood of God.

He said, then when that insight became, to understand that insight of God and the greatness of God, he began to laugh and he said he laughed for half-an-hour, just laughed, and joy just welled up within him. So then, uh, as he went to get up, he accidentally hit a brother on the foot with his hand. And this brother went bang. Powerful things.

A South Australian pastor?

Here we have Dr. Evans' third appeal to authority. If an Adelaide pastor experiences falling, crying and laughing, it must be okay.

Any one who will travel halfway across the world, then go to every meeting for a week, waiting in a 4,000 seater auditorium until only twenty or thirty people remain, has a very high level of motivation to experience something, *anything!* Motivational experts credit this kind of desire with the power to create all sorts of wonders in a person's life.

Earnestly desired (but unbiblical) manifestations do not prove the presence of the Holy Spirit or the blessing of God.

Not Jehovah's Witnesses or Mormons, so it must be OK! Now, what is all this? It's either the devil, it's either God, or it's the flesh. So I'm going to give you four ways you can discern. Go back to our text, one John four one. It says, don't believe every spirit, but try the spirits to see if they're of God, because many false prophets have gone into the world. Verse two, By this you know the Spirit of God, every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God. So the first test is, What do they teach about Jesus Christ.

This is the cornerstone that all cults separate from true Christianity. As you know, the Jehovah's Witnesses have a belief of, that He is "a god." The Mormons have a belief that He is "a being," Jesus is a being that came out of a union with God the Father and a female deity.

Not a Jehovah's Witness or a Mormon?

Here we have Dr. Evans' fourth appeal to authority. If they're not Jehovah's Witnesses or Mormons, they must be okay.

But are the doctrinal positions of the chief architects of the "Toronto blessing" any better than those of the famous cults? This would have been the appropriate place for Dr. Evans to examine the heretical teachings of Rodney Howard-Browne and his friends but, instead, he glibly deflects the focus to the old cults.

Kenneth Copeland, Kenneth Hagin and Benny Hinn (major influences on Rodney Howard-Browne) all teach heresy concerning the person of Jesus Christ and the nature of His work of redemption. The avoidance of membership in one of the old cults is no proof of the absence of false teaching. The Church needs to take a closer look at the "Christian" heresies of some of the leaders of the "Toronto blessing" movement.

Even the demons believe that! And that's why, John writing, he says, Anyone that confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God. He says by, in, uh, one John, in two John one seven, For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver, an antichrist. But verse three says, And every spirit of one John one, uh, four says that every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God and is the spirit of antichrist which you've heard are coming and is now already in the world.

And as I've talked to people of all groups, whether it is Sunderland, Sunderland, and Ken Gott the leader which is coming to be with us in June, it's just by uh, a miracle of events he's in this country in June, and so he's coming to be with us in June, you'll hear first hand from this very fine young man what God's doing in Sunderland. Or whether it's in, uh, Toronto or whether it's Rodney Howard-Browne, when they come to the Jesus Test there is no question that they believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the divine eternal Son of God, they confess Him as Lord and Saviour and they pass the test of his divinity.

In fact, when Rodney came to Australia one person was talking to me on the phone and carrying on and criticising and everything about Rodney and I says, Well, why don't you do the Matthew eighteen which says Go to your brother? You, you're spreading your videos, your tapes, all your propaganda around, why don't you go to your brother, and ring him up? So he rung him up and he said, Rodney do you believe that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh? He said, Of course I do. No problem. I believe in the divinity of Jesus. And so, when anything is occurring, unusual occurring, you put that test to them, as they respond about the fact of the Lord Jesus and His rulership as the Messiah and the Christ, they pass the first test.

So they pass the first test?

Here we have more of the same technique used by Dr. Andrew Evans in *A New Wave of the Holy Spirit*, that is, the glib quoting of 'proof' texts. This shallow exegesis of Scripture, foisted on to an ignorant but trusting congregation by a denominational leader, is a disgrace.

John was responding to the Gnostic heresy, which separated the Human and the Divine natures of Jesus, saying the 'human' Jesus died, but not the 'spiritual' Jesus. In other words, they taught that Jesus Christ had not come "in the flesh." The way to sort out the Gnostic teachers from the true Christian teachers was to ask them if they believed that Jesus Christ had come "in the flesh."

If someone says that Jesus did not come "in the flesh," we are to reject them. But if they say that Jesus did come "in the flesh," they have only passed the Gnostic heresy test. This doesn't mean that every other word that comes out of their mouth is divinely inspired. We must assess every statement on its Biblical merit.

What does Dr. Evans do with **James 2:19**? *You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that — and shudder.* This was a response to the Old Covenant test of orthodoxy, based on the declaration of **Deuteronomy 6:4**, *Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.* James is saying that someone may pass the orthodoxy test at this point, but still be far from God. The demons passed that test, but still they trembled (in fear of their judgment to come).

And what would Dr. Evans do with the demon-possessed man of Mark 5? *When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?" (Mark 5:6-7).* According to Dr. Evans, "as they respond about the fact of the Lord Jesus and His rulership as the Messiah and the Christ, they pass the first test."

Given the demon-possessed man's orthodox declaration concerning Jesus, we can only assume that Dr. Andrew Evans would place him in charge of the church's teaching program.

Jesus just quietly said, *"Come out of this man, you evil spirit!"* Here was discernment beyond the ability of Dr. Andrew Evans: Jesus knew him by his fruit (**Mark 5:3-5**). Even if people fall on their knees before Him, and say that Jesus is the "Son of the Most High God," but they spend their time crying out mindlessly and damaging their bodies, they have come under demonic influence and need to be delivered.

Jesus speciality was removing dumbness, not causing it!

So, what's happening is not of the devil because they've passed the test that John gave us. So maybe then, it's the flesh or the Spirit, so we have to give them the second test. And the second test: — Is the things that are happening, and the teachings that are occurring, Biblical? You know, the manifestations are unusual, to say the least. I can't work out how Trevor is struck dumb. I can't work that out, and Pentecostals would have said that that can't possibly be, so either Trevor was struck dumb in the flesh or the Spirit.

Struck dumb in the flesh or the Spirit?

Here we have a very glib avoidance of the issue. Dr. Evans has artificially reduced the possibilities to "the flesh or the Spirit," pretending that Satan is never responsible for sending people dumb. What does Dr. Evans do with:

Matthew 9:32, where *a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke.*

Matthew 12:22, where *They brought to him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see.*

Matthew 15:30, where *Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them.*

and so on, throughout the Gospels.

Notice that Jesus' speciality was removing dumbness, not causing it! The spirit that Dr. Andrew Evans has embraced, and is now subtly imposing on others, acts in the opposite manner to that of Jesus Christ. Christians, be warned!

Looking for another Messiah!

So either Trevor was struck dumb in the flesh or the Spirit. I'm getting tongue-tied myself, right now. But all I know, as you look at Scripture, over and over again, God, when He met with certain people, sovereignly touched them, many times there was incredible manifestations. Think of Paul of Sarsus, Saul of Tarsus. Help me get through this, Lord. Saul of Tarsus. Knocked down, and made blind when he met the Living God. Think of Zechariah. Struck dumb for months, when he met the Living God.

Saul of Tarsus / Zechariah

Dr. Andrew Evans now skirts about the fringes of a Scriptural defence of his new doctrine, without ever actually providing one. He wrote a booklet called "A New Wave of the Holy Spirit" which pretended to explain the bizarre manifestations from Scripture. He quoted from twenty passages of Scripture which, under examination, proved to be either completely irrelevant or actually contradicted his teachings. Since that time he has been under constant pressure to provide an adequate Biblical explanation, but without any real response, beyond this passing mention of Saul of Tarsus and Zechariah.

Saul of Tarsus:

He was a non-Christian — a persecutor and a murderer of Christians — when he fell down blind. He did not go looking for the experience: the falling down and the blindness came as a simultaneous judgment and call to repentance. Jesus ordered Saul to "Get up," rather than roll about on the ground, Rodney Howard-Browne style. Saul was totally converted to the cause of Christ by the experience.

Zechariah:

He was struck dumb by an angel in judgment for his unbelief. The dumbness was removed when he acted in obedience and indicated that the child should be called "John." This sequence was necessary to ensure that the events surrounding Jesus' birth and early ministry went according to God's plan.

Unlike the Saul experience, the "Toronto blessing" happens to Christians who voluntarily open themselves up to it; they are encouraged to remain on the ground for hours at a time; and no one is converted as a result. The Zechariah experience would only be necessary today if another "Messiah" is about to come into the world.

Trust me, I'm a Doctor!

And you could go through experience after experience after experience, in Scripture and show that when God comes to people in a dynamic, power of the living, eternal, almighty God, who spoke and caused the millions of stars, when He comes in power to people, something happens. And those who've tried to talk their way around the manifestations, from the Biblical point of view and tried to say, Oh well, Paul had that experience, but, you know, in context, it was a sovereign thing and so on, they are playing with things, brothers and sisters. The fact is, if God comes into any of our lives, He's a dynamic, powerful God and He can do what He wants to do for His own purposes, that He may be glorified. And so, I believe they've passed the Biblical test.

They've passed the Biblical test?

Here we have Dr. Evans' fifth appeal to authority. If I believe they've passed the Biblical test, then it must be okay.

Where is the evidence that they have passed the Biblical test? Where does the Bible say that Christians should spend their time falling down, rolling on the ground, laughing hysterically, crying, in confusion and hysteria, suffering from paralysis, from the loss of the power of speech, and from the loss of self-control. This isn't exactly "the fruit of the Spirit," is it?

Where is the evidence? There isn't any! But Dr. Andrew Evans says, "I believe they've passed the Biblical test," and that's all there is to it. Trust me, I'm a doctor!

The Bible was written by isolated individuals

But there's a third test that we need to pass when unusual things happen. And that is the test of: What do spiritual leaders say? Whenever there's a controversy in the Church, the answer to that controversy doesn't come from isolated individuals who write books or send tapes or videos around. The answer to the controversy comes from God's appointed leadership. Now God has order in Christ, in the Church. In the Book of Revelation, when God wanted to deal with the Church, he talked to the person He held in His right hand. And we read there in Revelation two and Revelation three where He held in His right hand the angel of the church or the minister of the church and He gave direction to that church to him.

Isolated individuals who write books?

"The answer to that controversy doesn't come from isolated individuals who write books." What a load of dishonest rubbish! **Who wrote the Book of Revelation?** John, an individual who was isolated (on the island of Patmos) and who wrote a book (at the Lord's direction). *Write, therefore, what you have seen...* (Revelation 1:19).

God "gave direction to that church to him...the person He held in His right hand"? Rubbish! **God gave the direction to an isolated individual, John, who wrote it in a book, the Book of Revelation, and who passed it to the leaders of the seven churches named therein.**

Notice that the content of those messages to the leaders was, in most cases, a rebuke and a correction. God spoke to an isolated individual and told him to write a book precisely because the leaders weren't listening to God!

Where does Dr. Evans think the rest of the Bible came from? It was written by isolated individuals — **Paul**, sitting in a Roman prison; **David**, the lonely shepherd boy on the hillside, or fleeing from King Saul; **Jeremiah**, in stocks and prison; **Moses**, surrounded by millions of murmuring Israelites who looked like stoning him to death in the wilderness; **Nehemiah**, constantly battling enemies within and without, struggling to build the wall; and so on.

Read about the *Heroes of the Faith* in Hebrews chapter eleven and see what a collection of isolated individuals they were. Throughout Church History, God has specialised in speaking through isolated individuals, rather than committees or Executives.

Dr. Andrew Evans' teachings here are comprehensively dishonest. He abuses the Bible in order to reinforce his personal empire. **The controlling, manipulative authority that he demands of us is one of the major marks of a cult.** *Trust me, I'm a doctor!*

I've got more churches than they have!

Now, in the twentieth century, when there's controversy in the Church, God still wants to speak through the leaders of the Church, and give them direction. He hasn't got another plan. And so, in February this year [1995], after Rodney Howard-Browne left, the leaders of the Pentecostal Church of Australia, who meet once a year, met. And we discussed this issue at great length, for about a full day, and I, uh, uh.

At this meeting was Neil Myer, the President of the C.O.C.; Mike Cronin, the Chairman of the C.R.C.; Phil Pringle was not there, but he agreed with the decision, but he's normally there, of the Christian City Church; Don Baker, good friend of mine, from the Four Square Church in Sydney and their movement, they have about, maybe fifty churches under them; Phil Pringle has forty, fifty churches; Mike Cronin, maybe a hundred and fifty churches; Neil Myer, about two hundred churches.

The Apostolic Churches were represented by Joe Bowes and John Hewitt, about a hundred and twenty odd they represent; the Waverley Christian Fellowship, by Kevin Connors; Phil Baker, from Rhema Church in Perth, has the largest church in Perth; Trevor Chandler, from C.L.C. Churches, they have about thirty churches in various parts; Barry Chant, from Tabor was there; another brother from InterMin was there; and Peter Vacca from the Bethesda Churches was there, with fifty odd churches.

And there was myself and two other representatives from the Assemblies of God, and, in total, we covered the whole of the Pentecostal churches, by and large, in Australia. Something like sixteen hundred churches we represented.

And we sat there and we discussed this move, this new move. We discussed the unusual phenomena. We discussed these things, like Trevor getting, you know. People saying, How can that be? And as we discussed it for about a day or more, the conclusion of the meeting was that it was of God. Out of that whole group there was only one who had some concerns. And he expressed concerns, but he didn't deny the fact that there was something happening. And so the whole group of the leaders of the Pentecostal movement in Australia in February this year endorsed this thing that's happening in our nation today. All of them had

amazing testimonies of what's happening in their churches. Most of them had some personal experiences themselves along that line. Most of them had seen it happen under their own ministry. And so, these men that would be considered the apostles and elders of the Pentecostal movement endorse the current wave of the spirit as being from God.

Endorsing the current wave

Here we have Dr. Evans' sixth appeal to authority. *If certain religious leaders say its okay, then it must be okay.*

His presentation is extraordinarily one-sided. **David Wilkerson** opposes this "wave." **Barry Chant** has publicly said he found it "very disturbing." **Harry Westcott** is opposed to it, describing the wave as a "dumper" and expressing his concern that many people will be injured by it. **Ken Chant** is strongly opposed to it. Numerous AOG pastors across Australia are deeply concerned and some of them boycotted the 1995 AOG National Conference because Rodney Howard-Browne would be there. There are groups of Christian leaders around the world who are warning people to be extremely careful and to exercise their discernment.

The fact that Dr. Andrew Evans achieved an "endorsement" from a group of men who meet just once a year doesn't mean a thing. If this group were truly "the apostles and elders" of the Church in Australia, they wouldn't be representing a dozen or more denominations. They would be able to hear clearly from God, correct any wrong doctrine that any of them might have, put their personal ego trips aside, and restructure their individual groups as the one Pentecostal Church in Australia. Until that happens, we can all be sure that they mean well, but they lack the spiritual authority that Dr. Evans claims for them.

Red Herrings and Character Assassination. However, not everyone has accepted that ruling. And in this city these are the opponents to it. Let me go through them. Number one, there's a little church just near by here that puts ads in the paper saying it's of the devil. And that brother is a sincere person and believes the Bible, but doesn't believe in the gifts of the Spirit, doesn't believe in the power of God, doesn't believe in miracles, doesn't believe in speaking in tongues. So, he would oppose anything supernatural, because in his mind it finished two thousand years ago. So, you as a congregation have a choice whether you're going to believe him or the apostles of the nation. You've got a choice.

You've got a choice whether you're going to believe a little two or three cult-buster groups that have their little meetings and their main job in life is to destroy the cults and expose the cults. They do a reasonable job in that and I'm grateful for people who are involved in that. But when they begin to take on a role of giving direction to the church, they've gone past their mandate from God. You see, in the early church they never had the apostles and elders and then a little group here on the side, cult-busters, who were going to keep the church straight in doctrine. It was the apostles and prophets. And these cult-busters are very active. They're putting out videos, they're putting out tapes, they're putting out literature. Very active. But they're operating outside their authority from God.

And you have a choice whether you're going to believe the apostles of this nation, in the Pentecostal sense, or whether you're going to believe these groups. You've got a choice whether you're going to believe people who don't go to church at all, and what they say.

You've got a choice?

For Bible-believing Christians, it is never a question of:
Do you believe *this* person or do you believe *that* person?
It is always a question of: **What does the Bible say?**

Dr. Andrew Evans uses two of his favourite techniques here: the **Red Herring Chase** and **Character Assassination**. The Red Herring Chase keeps people earnestly debating about irrelevant matters until the crisis (for the false leader) has passed.

The **Red Herrings** here include:

- "Cult-buster groups",
- "take on a role of giving direction to the church",
- "keep the church straight in doctrine",
- "gone past their mandate from God", and
- "people who don't go to church."

These are all intended to excite emotions and remove the focus from the real question: **What is the Biblical basis for the bizarre manifestations that occur with the "Toronto blessing"?**

Character Assassination (also known as Damning With Faint Praise) is intended to make the opposition look so silly that no one in their right mind would listen to them.

The **Character Assassinations** here include:

- "a little church just near by here",
- "doesn't believe in the gifts of the Spirit",
- "doesn't believe in the power of God",
- "doesn't believe in miracles",
- "doesn't believe in speaking in tongues",
- "he would oppose anything supernatural",
- "cult-buster groups that have their little meetings",

- “a little group here on the side, cult-busters”, and
- “people who don’t go to church at all.”

Even if these comments were all true — and we have no way of checking any of them — they don’t help us to answer the real question. (*The value of observing this exercise lies in the insight it gives us into the methods of Dr. Andrew Evans.*)

What does the Bible say? There’s some people that are making, that are saying a lot of things these days, that don’t even go to church. Oh, they have been in the past. They’ve been to several churches, as a matter of fact, numbers of churches. But for some reason or other they’ve left them all and at this present time, some of those people don’t go to any church at all. Well, if you want to believe that, God bless you. I’m believing the apostles. I never, ever believe, I never take one scrap of notice, I never take one scrap of notice of someone who doesn’t submit to a local church.

If someone comes to me, and they do from time to time, ah, my first question is, people come to me, they, some of them, I’m a target, and they come to me and say, We’ve got a word from God for you, they, uh, prophets and so on.

Remember, a guy come a few months back, he said, I’ve got a prophecy from God. You know my first question? I said, where do you fellowship? He says, Oh, I don’t. I said, well forget it, brother, I haven’t got time to waste listening to your prophecies. I don’t believe you’re from God, because if you were you’d be in a local church, you’d be submitted to the leadership, you’d have people who can bring correction to you if you’re wrong, you can put your input in the Body, but when you’re just a loose limb floating around some place, I’m not even going to listen to you. Anyhow, he left the room mumbling curses on me and, and God was going to judge me and all the rest. I come the next day, on Monday, and I see him in the foyer again and I say, Hey, what are you doing here? He said, I’ve got an appointment with a Phil Ward. I said, You did have one. I said, I just cancelled it. I said, we do not listen to people who will not submit to a local church. It’s amazing, though, some people do, they’ll listen to people who don’t even go to a local church, rather than listen to the spiritual, God-ordained leadership.

Listen to the spiritual, God-ordained leadership?

For Bible-believing Christians, it is never a question of:

Do you listen to *this* person or do you listen to *that* person?

It is always a question of: **What does the Bible say?**

Dr. Evans wants us all to believe that he, personally, is the great oracle of God. But if he cannot substantiate his teachings from the Bible, it doesn’t matter what titles, badges or honours he has accumulated to himself, no one should listen to his new doctrines.

All of the Evans-approved churches agree with Andrew Evans.

Very shaky grounds, very shaky grounds. I had one dear old man, I, uh, I felt the Lord just say to me, Be kind to him. He came to me and he wanted to sell me a book. And, uh, it was a nice book, it was on End Time and Prophecy and things like that, and it was nice, and I, uh, believe a lot of what it had in there, and I was sympathetic to him, and, uh, I just felt the Holy Spirit say, Be kind to him. So, brother, I said, just let me ask you one question before I consider your book. I said, Where do you go to church? Oh, well, I worship at home. So I said, My dear friend, please, find a spiritual home because, I said, Your credibility goes down the tubes, just like that, when I find that you can’t mix with your brothers and sisters and be submitted to them and work with them and flow with them. Something wrong, when people.

Any church which doesn’t agree with Evans is *not* OK.

Anyhow, I got a phone call just about a month later, and the Baptist pastor from Ingle Farm rang me and said, Andrew, have you had a visit from so-and-so trying to sell a book? I said, Yeah. He said, Oh, he’s been to see me too. I said, What did you tell him? He said, I asked him what local church he went to? Anyhow, I, uh, I understand that this man has now joined the local church, and that’s good.

OK?

Where do you go to church?

Dr. Evans has been working systematically to discredit three groups of people:

- 1) Those who don’t go to church,
- 2) Those who don’t go to a Dr.-Andrew-Evans-approved church, and
- 3) Those who go to one of the House Churches springing up around Australia.

Even if you pass these three hurdles, you must still submit to the leadership of your Dr.-Andrew-Evans-approved church, which means that you submit to his new doctrine.

In other words, the only people who are qualified to criticise Dr. Evans’ new doctrine are people who have submitted themselves to that doctrine, and who therefore won’t criticise it. So, all the “good guys” agree with Dr. Evans, and anyone who doesn’t agree must be one of the “bad guys.”

This approach is both dishonest and manipulative. If Jesus had adopted the attitude demanded by Dr. Evans, He would never have gone near John the Baptist, but would have signed up with the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem, instead.

Feelings,
not fruit!

But you see, God, when, when there's these teachings coming through, who you're going to listen to? You going to listen to someone who doesn't go to a church, who's a loose cannon, who doesn't come under submission, you're going to listen to some group that, uh, anti, uh, charismatic, anti gifts of the Spirit, are you going to listen to some, some cult-buster group that have taken on a role that God hasn't called them to be? Or are you going to listen to this, to the leadership of a nation? And in the Bible they did it, and the leadership of this nation has said, despite the unusual things and the phenomenas of it all, it's of God.

The fourth, fourth, uh, test is the test of the fruit. It's the fruit test. Become a fruit inspector. The latest Evangel is, is an incredibly wonderful Evangel and some wonderful stories in it. We've heard testimonies this morning of Trevor and said what it did for him. Cameron, what it did for him. Just a few quick ones on fruit. Jim Cavell, fellow I know in Brisbane says, After I stopped shaking, God ministered to me. He drew me into a far closer relationship with me and filled me with a deep love. When people are being touched by the power of God, there's love for God.

Two. A desire for holiness. A tribal aboriginal man came forward to the altar without any counselling. But as the spirit moved on his life he decided to go home and arrange to marry his defacto. A greater desire for the Scriptures. A district pastor said the Word of God has become fresh and alive.

A home group leader's wife said, Fear is gone, I've always been fearful of people, but the fear of rejection and people that plagued me until now was suddenly gone. Another lady said she was refreshed, a wife and mother of two children who is studying for a doctorate of psychology was exhausted in body, emotions and spirit. She was ministered to by the Holy Spirit and she said amidst tears and laughter the Lord lifted the exhaustion and the burden.

A twenty year old student said his life was changed, he found that God imparted into his life was life-changing. He's renewed my heart. I no longer struggle to communicate with Him, because I fell close to Him, I feel close to Him as I've never felt before.

One of our pastors in Perth sums up what's happened in his church since this new wave has come. He said, There is a new sense of closeness to God, an unquenchable desire to read the Scriptures, to pray, as well as a renewed joy in Christ and a strong desire to tell others about Him. That's good fruit.

That's good fruit?

What is the "good fruit" that Dr. Andrew Evans has identified? Most of it relates to people's **feelings**:

- "He...filled me with a deep love"
- "Fear is gone"
- "She was refreshed"
- "I feel close to Him"
- "A new sense of closeness to God"
- "A renewed joy in Christ"

Our emotions are good, in so much as they are God-given, but they are notoriously unreliable indicators of spiritual reality. The test of: **Is this from God or is it from the devil?** cannot be decided by how it makes people feel. The 1960s doctrine of: *If it feels good, do it!* has led to massive problems in Western society.

The next group of responses have a distinct tone of unreality to them.

- "An unquenchable desire to read the Scriptures"
- "He drew me into a far closer relationship"
- "I no longer struggle to communicate with Him"

How long does something need to last before you can confidently describe it as "unquenchable"? (More than two days?)

And what constitutes a "far closer" relationship? If Jesus was your Saviour and Lord before you developed a "far closer" relationship, what actually changed? (Or was this just a *feelings* thing, as well?)

All true Christians "struggle to communicate with Him" some of the time. (Try reading *Pilgrim's Progress* for its picture of the Slough of Despond.) To boldly assert that "no longer" will you have that experience smacks of immaturity and unreality.

If the final group of comments:

- "The Word of God has become fresh and alive" proves to be true for these people over the long term, I will be delighted. None the less, the fact of the matter is that the leaders of the "Toronto blessing" movement display a consistent disregard for the Word of God. Their example is to be abhorred!

Close

You want to test the spirits? Find out what they think of Jesus Christ. If you want to test the spirits, see what they say, whether it lines up with Scripture or not. If you want to test the spirits, see what lead, spiritual leadership say about an issue. If you want to test the spirits, see what the fruit is. And if you use those four principles, you won't go far wrong. And when God begins to move, you'll move with Him. And when there's something false, you'll pick it up and protect yourself from it. We are to test the spirits, but to enjoy the

Summary

Dr. Andrew Evans appeals to six authorities to justify his claim that the “Toronto blessing” is from God. These are:

1. If an educated person, such as a professor of mathematics, likes it, it must be okay.
2. If it attracts a big crowd, if it causes a local assembly to move from two hundred people to occupying an auditorium that seats up to 4,000 people, it must be okay.
3. If a local identity, such as an Adelaide pastor, experiences some of the various manifestations, it must be okay.
4. If the people leading the show are not known to be associated with the Mormons or the Jehovah’s Witnesses, it must be okay.
5. If Dr. Andrew Evans declares that those same people have passed the Biblical test, there’s no more to ask. It simply *must* be true. *Trust me, I’m a doctor!*
6. And if a group of religious leaders who meet once a year can be persuaded to pass an “endorsement,” that’s the final proof – it’s okay!

Bible-believing Christians will recognise this group of claims as just so much hot air.

If the Bible doesn’t support it, we don’t want it.

The only clear description of the “Toronto blessing” to be found in the Bible was a clear judgment from God against the Babylonians, who had been abusing His people for years.

“Her people all roar like young lions, they growl like lion cubs. But while they are aroused, I will set out a feast for them and make them drunk, so that they shout with laughter – then sleep forever and not awake,” declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 51:38-39)

The fact that those same judgment manifestations are now occurring in a luke-warm church that chased after a ‘gospel of prosperity’ for years is not a reason for rejoicing, but a reason for soul-searching and repentance.

Lord Jesus Christ, please send us leaders who are small in their own eyes, and who will lead your people in the ways of humility and repentance!